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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/550,171

09/20/2005

Hugo Schweitzer

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5246

25943 7590 03/02/2010

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EXAMINER

JOHNSON, BLAIR M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3634

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/02/2010

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/550,171	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SCHWEITZER, HUGO	
	<b>Examiner</b> Blair M. Johnson	<b>Art Unit</b> 3634	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 38,41-54 and 56-59 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 38,41-54 and 56-59 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                    | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 38,41-46,48,49,54 and 56-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Palmer (4,478,268) in view of Iseli et al (4,519,474).

Palmer discloses a roller door having a closing element 10, a lower portion of which being a “web-like hanging element”, and a multiple part flexible edge as shown in Figs. 12 and 13, which includes a tube/channel with a spring located therein and a groove for accommodating the lower edge of the closing element. What is not shown is the reinforcing spring. However, Iseli et al discloses a elastic door edge sensor that has such a reinforcing member 9, Figs. 3 and 4. It would have been obvious to provide one or more such reinforcing elements to the safety edge 21 of Palmer so as to stabilize the edge and to provide a sensor therefor. The relative locations of the leaf springs and safety device is considered to an obvious design choice determined by particular application, size constraints, etc. The particular crosssectional shape of the flexible edge as well as the spring would have been an obvious design choice determined by the desired strength, size constraints, etc. The manner in which the stabilizing element is attached to the closure is clearly an obvious design choice and glue and/or screws would have been well known expedients.

Claim 47 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Palmer (4,478,268) in view of Iseli et al (4,519,474) as applied above, and further in view of Strand (5,399,851).

Strand provides additional sealing lips that would have been an obvious addition to Palmer so as to further seal the bottom of the door.

Claims 50-53 and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Palmer (4,478,268) in view of Iseli et al (4,519,474) as applied above, and further in view of Clark (3,292,685).

Providing bristle sealing/aligning means in a track for a roller closure is well known, as illustrated by Clark and it would have been obvious to provide such for Palmer so as to both center the closure and to seal the edges. Regarding claim 59, since the upper edges of the channel are vertically offset, the distance from one upper edge to the other, opposing, upper edge is greater than the width of the channel.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant stresses that Palmer is concerned only with impact on bottom edge of the door laterally, from the side, as when struck by an vehicle. While this may be true, the problem addressed by Applicant is one where the door closes on an object when the door is closing. This is hardly an unrecognized problem as numerous door edge devices have been available for years to address this problem. Consequently, Applicant has not addressed a problem that only he has recognized. With this established, providing Palmer with such a safety device would be well within the purview of one of ordinary skill in the art. Iseli et al is clearly analogous art by being concerned with the

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same problem addressed by Applicant as well as being, broadly, within the same field of endeavor as Palmer. Applicant attempts to cut and paste Iseli et al on an embodiment of Palmer that is not part of the rejection. In this cut and paste, Iseli et al is oriented against it's teachings.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blair M. Johnson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6830. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Mitchell can be reached on (571) 272-7069. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Blair M. Johnson/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3634

BMJ  
2/28/10